Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, the paragraph beginning on line 6 and filed in the preliminary amendment—

"This application is a division of application Serial No. 08/948,011, filed October 9, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/825,368, filed March 28, 1997, now abandoned."

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 24—

"Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view with parts broken away [[way]] for clarity of the shiftable segment-holding vacuum plate assembly of the invention;"

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 30—

"Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view depicting the input end of the plate and anvil assembly, with the cooperable ~~cooper able~~ die assembly illustrated in phantom;"

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 32—

"Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken along line 8–8 of Fig. 4 ~~fig. 4~~ which illustrates the side panel members of the shiftable plate and the underlying anvil assembly;"

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 34—

"Fig. 9 is an enlarged, fragmentary [[in]] partial vertical section which illustrates one of the eccentric drive motor units coupled with the shiftable segment-holding plate;"

On page 5, the paragraph beginning on line 3—

"Fig. 11 is a schematic block diagram illustrating the [[th]] interconnection between the computer controller of the die cutting apparatus and the sensing cameras and stepper motor drive units;"

On page 5, the paragraph beginning on line 30—

"Turning now to the drawings, and particularly Fig. 1, die cutting apparatus 30 is illustrated. The apparatus 30 broadly includes a die cutting press or station 32 equipped with a die set 34, a material feeder assembly 36 for sequentially feeding stock to the station 32 for sequential die cutting of web segments 38 thereof (Fig. 21), and segment positioning apparatus 40 adjacent die set 34 for accurate positioning of each respective web segment ~~segments~~ 38 relative to the die set."

The Abstract—

"Web processing method and apparatus (30, 300) is provided for high speed, extremely accurate die cutting or lamination operations. Processing station (32,300) includes a vacuum hold down plate (32,308) which receives and holds an image bearing incremental segment of the web. In feed and out feed tension on the web is released while a segment of the web is held by the hold down plate. The hold down plate with a segment of the web thereon is selectively shifted about X, Y, and θ axes as required to bring the image on the web segment into alignment with a web processing component at the processing station. ~~Web or sheet-fed segment processing apparatus (30, 300) is provided for high speed, extremely accurate operations such as die cutting or lamination. The apparatus (30, 300) includes a processing station (32,300) adapted to receive a segment (38) forming a part of a continuous web (100, 102) or as a discrete sheet. The station (32, 300) includes a vacuum hold down plate (142, 306) for holding initially fed segments (38); the hold-down plate (32, 308) is shiftable as necessary along orthogonal X-Y axes in the plane of the segment (38), and/or θ rotation about a rotational axis transverse to the~~

~~segment plane, such movement being effected by a series of aligned, translatable eccentric drive units (178-182, 346-350) coupled with plate (142, 306). Preferably, the segments (38) carry positioning fiducials (44) and which are compared with fixed reference indicia (250, 252) in the station (32, 300). Such comparison data is used by a controller (254) to generate the necessary movement information used in simultaneous operation of the associated plate drive units (178-182, 346-350). The apparatus (32) is especially adapted for the production of small ceramic capacitors.~~"